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CONFIDENTIALDecember 15th, 1959COCOM Document No. 3820COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONA UNITED STATES PROPOSAL TO EXPORT COBALT OXIDE TO POLANDDecember 10th, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Document No. 3778 and Corrigendum.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the United States proposal to export 5 metric tons of cobalt oxide to Poland. He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.
2. The BELGIAN Delegate said that his authorities wished to stress what they considered to be the illogical approach of the United States authorities. It was known that the Soviet Union exported cobalt to the satellite countries and any shipment from the west would only have the effect of freeing a quantity of cobalt for the Soviet Union, where it was considered by the United States that there was a shortage of this material. The Belgian authorities did not consider that this shortage existed and therefore raised no objection to this export.
3. The FRENCH Delegate said that although his military authorities considered that the quantity was large he had been instructed to raise no objection to this export because of the civilian end-use and the special policy towards Poland.
4. The ITALIAN Delegate stated that his authorities raised no objection to this export because of the civilian end-use and the country of destination.
5. The GERMAN Delegate said that his authorities did not object to this export. He reminded the Committee that other Member Countries had obtained the Committee's approval for exports of the same material. He asked what was the metal content of the oxide.
6. There were no objections from the other Members of the Committee.
7. The UNITED STATES Delegate expressed his thanks for the favourable replies which had been given. He pointed out that the original export application had been received by his authorities in August and this had been subjected to such careful consideration that the exception request had not been submitted to the Committee until mid-November. It appeared from an analysis that had been made by his authorities that if the 5 tons in question were delivered before the end of 1959 the Poles would still be 3 tons short of the normal requirements of cobalt for their ceramics industry. For this reason his authorities did not consider that they were contributing to Poland's military potential, still less to that of the Soviet Bloc as a whole. In answer to the German Delegate he stated that the metal content of the oxide was between 70 and 72 per cent.

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